

Important Health Info for Needle Users

Life-threatening infection

Harborview Medical Center recently reported that people are continuing to die from a serious infection called **necrotizing fasciitis**. You may have heard or seen news reports about the “flesh-eating” bacteria that causes these infections.

All of the people who have died recently used injection drugs. We want to take this opportunity to remind local injectors about abscesses and infection dangers.

You can get an abscess from contaminated dope, from using dirty injection equipment, or from bacteria on your skin. If the bacteria are in the dope itself, cooking it probably won't kill it.

Protect yourself

You can reduce your risk for abscesses and bacterial infections.

- ♣ Use a brand new sterile syringe every time you inject or divide drugs.
- ♣ Do not re-use syringes.
- ♣ Do not share syringes, cookers, cottons, mixing or rinse water with anybody.
- ♣ Before you inject, clean the injection site with **soap and hot water**. Really scrub to remove harmful bacteria that may be hanging out on your skin.
- ♣ If you can't use soap and hot water, clean the site with alcohol wipes before you inject.

What does necrotizing fasciitis look & feel like?

- ♣ The skin around an injection site will show redness and swelling.
- ♣ The skin will feel warm and very tender.
- ♣ You may have pain, chills, and fever.
- ♣ At the beginning, it may look like a regular abscess, but it gets worse very quickly. It can cause serious damage under your skin in as little as **12 hours**. This infection usually **MOVES REALLY FAST**.
- ♣ If the redness or swelling gets bigger, go to an **EMERGENCY ROOM** for treatment. *Don't try to treat this infection yourself.* Bring a copy of this flyer with you.

If necrotizing fasciitis is caught early, it can be successfully treated. But it is very important to catch it early and begin treatment immediately.

This infection is nothing to play around with. If you do not get medical care early, you run the risk of losing skin, losing an arm, or even death. If you have questions, ask to see the medical provider in the *Downtown Needle Exchange Medical Clinic* (M-F 1:30-4:30pm)

For more information, call 206-205-7837, M-F, 8am-5pm
See the back of this flyer for needle exchange hours and locations.

Public Health - Seattle & King County

NEEDLE EXCHANGE

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
<i>DOWNTOWN</i> 1511 Second Avenue (between Pike & Pine)	1:00 - 5:30pm	1:00 - 5:30pm	1:00 - 5:30pm	1:00 - 5:30pm	1:00 - 5:30pm	2:00 - 4:00pm	
<i>WHITE CENTER</i> Van at SW 100 th and 14 th Ave. SW		6:30 - 8:30pm		6:30 - 8:30pm			
<i>SOUTH PARK</i> Van at Orr St and 14 th Ave. Bridge			6:30 - 8:30pm				
<i>RAINIER VALLEY</i> Van on S Forest St one block west of Rainier, behind auto parts store	9:30 - 11:30am				9:30 - 11:30am		
<i>CAPITOL HILL</i> Van on 10 th Ave between Madison & Union	6:00 - 8:30pm				6:00 - 8:30pm		
<i>SOS (OFF-BROADWAY)</i> Van at same location as Capitol Hill		6:00 - 8:30pm	6:00 - 8:30pm	6:00 - 8:30pm		6:00 - 8:30pm	6:00 - 8:30pm
<i>SOS (U-DISTRICT)</i> Table in alley behind Post Office at NE 43 rd & U Way NE	5 - 7pm		5 - 7pm		1 - 5pm	1 - 5pm	1 - 5pm